

REMARKS

Claims 2-11, 17-21 and 28-33 has been cancelled, and claim 12-15, 23 and 25 have been amended. In addition, new claims 34 - 74 have been added to the Application. Thus, claims 12-16, 22-27 and 34-74 are currently pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2-21 under the judicially created Doctrine of Double Patenting in view of one or more claims of U.S. Patent No. 5,752,011, U.S. Patent No. 5,974,557 and U.S. Patent No. 6,216,235. Submitted together herewith is a Terminal disclaimer with respect to the above-mentioned prior patents. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 2-21 under the judicially created Doctrine of Double Patenting is thus obviated.

The Examiner also rejected claims 23 and 25 under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 as being indefinite. Claims 23 and 25 have been amended to clarify the subject matter of the invention being claimed. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claims 23 and 25 under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112.

Further, the Examiner rejected claims 2-14, 17-21 and 28-33 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Pippin, U.S. Patent No. 5,838,578. Given the cancellation of claims 2-11, 17-21 and 28-33 and the amendments to claims 12-14, the rejection under 35 USC 102(e) is moot. These claims are cancelled or amended for the purpose of expediting prosecution, and thus such does not represent an admission or acquiescence as to their unpatentability.

The new claims 34 – 74 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 12-16, 22-27 and 34-74 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved

through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 500388, (Order No. RLC1G000). Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 500388 (Order No. RLC1G000).

Respectfully submitted,



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